

Media release

COWLITZ COUNTY PUD

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Cowlitz PUD Employees Donate Over Four Tons of Food to Help Warehouse



Cowlitz PUD employees delivered 2.5 tons of food to CAP on April 1, to go along with nearly two tons that was delivered the previous week. All told PUD employees donated 8,615 pounds of food to CAP's Help Warehouse as part of an annual food drive.

Front row (L-to-R): Zach Cooper, Treana Storie, Commissioner Ned Piper, Dave Andrew and CAP's Lois Shelton. Back row (L-to-R): Phil Byman and Josh Lillegard.

Longview, WA — Cowlitz PUD employees teamed up to collect 8,615 pounds of food and household goods during their annual spring food drive and delivered it to Lower Columbia Community Action Program (CAP) on April 1.

During February-March, the PUD's 165 employees were split into two teams that waged a friendly five-week competition to see which group could raise the most food to donate to CAP's Help Warehouse.

Besides donating food, the teams sponsored different activities to raise funds—including a pizza feed and several raffles—to purchase additional food and household items. In a close competition the office employees gathered 350 more pounds of food than the team from the operations department. The losing team will be cooking for the winners at an all-employees breakfast later in April.

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“This is the PUD employees’ third food drive since 2007,” said Lois Shelton, Help Warehouse Program Manager. “Overall, they’ve donated nearly 10 tons of food to Help Warehouse in that time, making it the largest food drive by any one company. Only the Walk n’ Knock, Postal Carriers and Bill Ammons’ community food drives are bigger.”

Cowlitz PUD’s Community Relations Assistant Treana Storie, who organized the PUD effort, said “Our employees really enjoy the opportunity to help others in the community. The team competition is pretty intense, but it’s also a great team building exercise for all of us.”

PUD Board President Ned Piper also joined in the competition with fellow commissioners Buz Ketcham and Mark McCrady. “Our employees have a great sense of community spirit,” Piper said. “It’s rewarding as a Board member to watch them have so much fun while they are helping people who are in need.”

Help Warehouse is the central food collection and distribution center for Cowlitz and Wahkiakum food banks. Last year, Help Warehouse staff and volunteers distributed more than 1.2 million pounds of food.

“At a time when we’re seeing families who have never before needed a food bank, this extra effort on the part of the PUD employees really helps,” said Shelton.

For more information about how to organize a food drive, call Shelton at Help Warehouse at 360-425-3430, ext 281.

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